Senate Bill 81 Pilot Project Program Overview

On August 24, 2007 Senate Bill 81 was chaptered directing the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) to allocate funding for two one-time probation projects with the overarching goal of testing program models for reducing the number of offenders entering state prison.

The legislation directed that funding for one of the pilot projects be provided to a probation department in a large, urban county. CSA was informed by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), Office of the Legislation, that it was the intent of SB 81 to identify Los Angeles as the large, urban county. The funding is to be used for prevention or supervision services for probationers. This pilot project is to target 18-25 year old probationers with known gang affiliations and provide services to probationers within a jurisdiction that has known gang "hot spots". The project is to work with other local law enforcement agencies as necessary to coordinate the project and enhance services to the gang "hot spots".

The second pilot project was specifically identified in the legislation as Alameda County. The project is to target adult probationers and other at-risk populations. The funding for this pilot project may be used to pay for efforts directed at deescalating community conflict, encouraging mediation among probationers and other at-risk populations and for the development of employment and educational programs. The project is to include collaborative efforts with community based organizations and service providers.

Each pilot project is to be funded at five million dollars (\$5,000,000) with funds available for expenditure by the county probation departments for a period of three years concluding on August 23, 2010. As indicated in SB 81, both pilot projects will provide CSA with an evaluation and report at the end of the project.